

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00861 070048Z

72-R  
ACTION EA-10

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----- 044589  
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FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3698

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASCH CH  
SUBJECT: USLO SCHOOL

FOR EA/PRCM ARMSTRONG FROM HOLDRIDGE

REF: STATE 101026

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT OUR SCHOOLING PROBLEMS AT USLO. THE SCHOOL BOARD IS INDEED INTERESTED IN HAVING SARA THOMAS' HELP NEXT YEAR AND PASCOE SENT HER A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT VIA CHRIS BALLOU. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO DR. LUEBKE ON OUR PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

2. BEGIN QUOTE. ASSUMING THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS, WE EXPECT TO HAVE EIGHT STUDENTS IN THE USLO SCHOOL NEXT YEAR--ONE FIRST GRADER, THREE SECOND GRADERS, AND ONE STUDENT IN EACH GRADES FIVE THROUGH EIGHT. WE HOPE TO HAVE JILL SALZER AND SARA THOMAS TEACH AT THE SCHOOL WITH MRS. SALZER, A GRADE SCHOOL TEACHER, CONCENTRATING ON THE YOUNGER STUDENTS AND MRS. THOMAS, A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, WORKING PRIMARILY WITH THE OLDER ONES. HOUSING REMAINS TIGHT IN PEKING AND THE SCHOOL WILL PROBABLY STAY IN THE HALL BY THE HOLDRIDGE APARTMENT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONSIDERING INSTALLING A PARTITION TO BLOCK OFF THE SCHOOL FROM THE ELEVATORS.

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WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE ON POSSIBLE

CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM. BOTH PAT HOLDRIDGE AND JILL SALZER HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONTINUING THE CALVERT PROGRAM. THEY BOTH FEEL TOO MUCH TIME IS SPENT PREPARING THE STUDENTS FOR THE NEXT SET OF EXAMS AND TOO LITTLE IS AVAILABLE FOR SOMEWHAT WIDER STUDY. THERE ARE ALSO APPARENTLY PROBLEMS WITH THE WAY SOME OF THE MATERIAL (I.E. MATH) IS PRESENTED FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS. DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO SUBSTITUTE OTHER COURSE MATERIAL FOR THE CALVERT SYSTEM? WOULD DROPPING THE CALVERT ADVISORY SERVICE--AND CONSEQUENTLY THE CALVERT CERTIFICATE--MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR USLO CHILDREN TO BE ACCEPTED INTO U.S. SCHOOLS WHEN THEY RETURN? IS THERE SUFFICIENT TIME BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER TO MAKE THE CHANGE AND OBTAIN THE NECESSARY BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS? WE REALIZE THE SPREAD OF THE STUDENTS IN THE HIGHER GRADES MIGHT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO SUBSTITUTE AT THAT LEVEL THAN FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS. ALSO WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GUIDANCE ON WHAT TEXTS WE SHOULD SUBSTITUTE IF YOU THINK A CHANGE IS FEASIBLE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER OUR TWO QUALIFIED TEACHERS A SOMEWHAT BETTER SALARY THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PAY IN THE PAST. WE HAVE NOT WORKED OUT A FINAL BUDGET REQUEST AS YET--OUR TREASURER IS AT THE CANTON FAIR--BUT WE MAY HAVE TO ASK FOR AN INCREASE OF THE USLO EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE TO AROUND \$2,250 PER STUDENT TO BE ABLE TO PAY MRS. SALZER AND MRS. THOMAS AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF HOURS THEY WILL PUT IN.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE VORACIOUS READERS AND THEY HAVE USED THE LIBRARY BOOKS YOU PROVIDED VERY HARD. AS USUAL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE OR GRADED LISTS OF BOOKS THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER FOR PURCHASE OUT OF OUR FUNDS. WE FORESEE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES IN HAVING ADEQUATE STIMULATION FOR THE OLDER STUDENTS NEXT YEAR. WE COULD ALSO USE SOME HELP IN THE SCIENCE AREA. BASIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, FILMSTRIPS, VIDEO-TAPES, ETC. WOULD ALL BE QUITE USEFUL.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR INVALUABLE HELP. WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT US IN PEKING AGAIN THIS FALL TO DISCUSS SCHOOL PROBLEMS. SINCERELY, PASCOE. END QUOTE.

3. PLEASE PROVIDE TEXT OF LETTER TO DR. LUEBKE IN

TIME FOR MAY 8 DISCUSSION WITH SARA THOMAS. PLEASE ALSO  
TELL BROOKS WE ORDER CALVERT MATERIALS ON INDIVIDUAL  
BASIS. SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE  
DR. LUEBKE'S REACTION TO PROPOSED CURRICULUM CHANGES  
BEFORE REGISTERING WITH CALVERT AND ORDERING MATERIALS. BUSH

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